

DISTRIBUTED GLOBALLY ACCESSIBLE INFORMATION NETWORK

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A distributed information network (10) is constructed for gathering
information from sites (16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30) distributed across a globally
accessible computer network, *i.e.*, the Internet. The distributed information network
preferably includes a root server (14) that stores a list of multiple distributed sites
each represented by metadata. A network browser (12) delivers an information
10 search request to the root server, which in response develops a profiled information
search request. The information provider of each of the distributed sites stores
metadata corresponding to information content that is retrievable in response to the
profiled information search request for search results derivable from the information
content to which the metadata correspond. A profiled information communication
15 link between the root server and each of the multiple distribution sites enables
formation of a path for delivery of the search results to a destination site, from a site
or sites represented by the metadata of the profiled information search request.